

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

SCHOOL COMMISSIONER'S SALARY

There is no more important office in the State of Michigan than that of Commissioner of Schools and no officer is so ridiculously underpaid. The service rendered to the public by a conscientious Commissioner of Schools can scarcely be estimated because it deals with the vital things in the lives of future men and women of America.

In Gratiot county there are 176 schools outside of the City of Alma, Ithaca, and St. Louis. The work of all these must be supervised and in addition to that the rooms of the city and village schools must be visited, making practically three hundred school rooms to be inspected.

Commissioner Potter is one of the ablest Commissioners in the state and rendering invaluable service yet his salary is only \$1500 per year, much less than many of the teachers are drawing, who have only the responsibility of one room.

The rural schools are entitled to the best possible supervision and Gratiot county is amply able to put Mr. Potter on a par with other professional men and pay a reasonable compensation for the very valuable service he is rendering.

Read the duties of the school commissioner as prescribed by law, and then decide if he is not holding the most important office in Gratiot county, measured by both requirements and finished product.

"To keep a record of all examinations held by the board of school examiners and to sign all certificates and other papers and reports issued by the board, and to keep a record of all meetings of the board of examiners and of all hearings for the suspension or revocation of any teacher's certificate;

"To receive the institute fee provided by law and to pay the same to the county treasurer quarterly, beginning September thirtieth in each year;

"To keep a record of all certificates granted, suspended, revoked or transferred by the said board or commissioner, showing to whom issued, together with the date, grade, duration of each certificate, and, if suspended or revoked, with the date and the reason therefor;

"To furnish, previous to the third Monday in July in each year, to the township clerk of each township in the county, and to each of the officers of every school district in the county, a list of all persons legally authorized to teach in the county at large during the preceding school year, and in such township, with the date and term of each certificate, and if any have been suspended or revoked, the date of such suspension or revocation;

"To visit each of the schools of the county at least once in each year and to examine carefully the discipline, the mode of instruction, the text books used, the apparatus belonging to the school, the library, the progress and the proficiency of the pupils, the skill and efficiency of the teacher, the condition of the school property, and whether the attendance at school is in compliance with law, and to make a careful record of these items and report the same to the director of each district;

"To counsel with the teachers and school boards as to the course of study to be adopted and pursued, and as to any improvement in the discipline, instruction and management of the school, and he may examine and audit the books and the records of any school district at any time when directed to do so by the superintendent of public instruction or by application of any school board;

"To promote by such means as he or she may devise, the improvement of the schools in the county, and the elevation of the character and qualifications of the teachers and officers thereof, and act as assistant conductor of institutes appointed by the superintendent of public instruction, and perform such other duties pertaining thereto as said superintendent shall require;

"To receive the duplicate annual reports of the several township clerks, examine into the correctness of the same, requiring them to be amended when necessary, endorse his or her approval upon them, and immediately thereafter, and before the fifteenth day of September in each year, transmit to the superintendent of public instruction one copy of each said report and file the other in the office of the county clerk;

"To be subject to such instruction and rules as the superintendent of public instruction may prescribe, to receive all blanks and communications that may be sent to him or her by the superintendent, and to make annual reports at the close of the school year to the superintendent of public instruction of his or her official labors, and of the schools of the county together with such other information as may be required."

THE PRIMARY ELECTION

Monday, April 5th, is Primary Election Day, consequently of importance to everyone interested in American citizenship.

It has become a matter of habit with a great many people to ignore the primary election, and that habit is not a sign of the best citizenship.

Primary day, as a matter of fact, is usually more important than election day, because in most cases the nomination is equivalent to the election. It is highly important that the right kind of men be nominated for important offices, and that places the responsibility squarely up to the individual voter.

At the April election we are to express our preference for a President of the United States, and if the choosing of a President is not important business for us then we have no business of importance.

The President of the United States is clothed with more power and has more responsibility than almost any other chief ruler in the world. His attitude toward both home and foreign affairs can make or break the peace and happiness of the country to a very large degree. He is commander-in-chief of the army and navy. He has the choosing of his own cabinet of official advisors. He directs the appointment of important committees. He holds the veto power. He shapes both foreign and domestic policies.

The power delegated to the President by the Constitution makes it important that we should choose the right man and that choosing starts back in the primaries. There is a great tendency to sit back and criticize. President Wilson has been severely criticised and the criticism is still going on. Some of it may be justified, but some of it is also unjustified, and much of the criticism comes from people who did not consider it worth while to go to the primaries and vote.

American citizenship carries with it a personal responsibility and duty and none of us have a right to kick very much about the way public affairs are conducted if we fail to do our part. It is unquestionably true that our officials would be more efficient and more particular about doing things economically if they felt that the people, as a whole, would promptly replace them if they failed to make good or be honest.

There never was a time in the history of the United States when the choosing of a President was more important than right now. Our affairs are in a more or less chaotic state on account of the war. There is great industrial unrest. The cost of living has become a burden. Taxation is excessive and all business unstable. It is out of the question for us to continue under these conditions. There must be a readjustment, and that will take place within the next year. We cannot escape our responsibility in this matter and next Monday every man and woman in Alma, who is eligible to vote should exercise the highest right of American citizenship by casting a vote at the primary election. It is important.

The cheerful notes of the birds of spring, in spite of cold and snow, remind us that cheerfulness is a rare quality that makes the world glad and dispels the clouds and gloom.

COULDN'T FACE THE UNKNOWN

Antics of Centurionist Saved Him From Hungry Tiger When Other Escape Was Impossible.

It is related that a native of India who had learned some of the elementary principles of juggling and contortion, put his knowledge to a decidedly practicable as well as novel use one evening when he was walking upon a ridge plain.

When the Hindu had reached the top of one of the mounds he saw a tiger ahead of him, 500 or 600 yards away. Before the man could hide behind a mound the tiger had seen him and began to bound toward him at its topmost speed. Having no means of defense there was nothing for the man to do but to race for the nearest tree, but though he tried it and put forth his utmost strength the tiger steadily gained on him.

What was he to do? In sheer desperation he resolved upon an unusual scheme. Just as he disappeared for an instant from the tiger's sight in running over a ridge he halted, stretched out his legs at right angles, curled down his head so as to look between his legs to the rear and extended his arms upward in a fantastic manner, like the sails of a windmill.

In a few seconds the tiger hove in sight, and at that instant the face of the object assumed a hideous grimace. A prolonged yell arose, such as had perhaps never before pierced the ear of any tiger, and the sails of the windmill began to revolve backward and forward, as if a sudden whirlwind had burst upon the scene.

The tiger recoiled. What, he evidently thought, is this? There stood a ferocious star-shaped monster, gigantic against the sky. Its vine-like jaws, between which those horrid roars were issuing, were actually placed above its two fiery eyes. Its limbs were furiously clanking for action; and the man he had been chasing, where was he? Already discomfited by this terrible beast, the tiger did not pause to reflect. He turned tail, and as he disappeared over a friendly ridge a last awful yell caused him to redouble his pace. He was conquered by the unknown.

ONLY RELICS OF LOST RACE

Network of Canals All That Remains of Early Dwellers in the Arizona Desert.

By far the most interesting remains of the lost people of Arizona are their network of canals which prevail through the valleys. The longest is the one tapping the Gila river and which supplied with water the ancient city, now marked with the one standing building. This is the Casa Grande, about which so much has been written and which has so excited much interest among archeologists in the last ten years.

The volume of water taken out by this canal must have been immense, for it supported millions of acres. In most places the canal has been filled with drifting sand, but its course is easily traced. Engineers who located the Maricopa canal made use of the old Aztec ditch and today water runs over its pebbly bottom just as it did 2,000 or 3,000 years ago.

For miles and miles around mounds tell the tale of houses destroyed by the ravages of time. Phoenix was built on the ruins of this ancient city and there relics frequently are found of this ancient civilization.

Early Meeting Houses.

The earliest New England meeting houses were built in valleys and meadow lands, much the same as the first Old First church in Springfield. For here it was that the homes were located. For a time it was required that all homes should be built within half a mile of the meeting house, for the most part to afford protection to the settlers, since the building did duty as a fort as well as house of worship.

As the population increased and new settlers came into the villages the half-mile radius became too crowded to permit this to continue. It was necessary to go some distance to pasture the cattle and for this reason the law was canceled.

Many Tales Concerning Fishes.

In the "Arabian Nights" is the well-known tale of the priceless diamond which the fisherman takes from a fish and which, placed on a shelf in a cottage, gives so much light that they are saved all expenditure in oil and which, when sold, makes the family rich forever. In Scandinavian myths is that of the longest crown, which the fishes kept to the throne can addish, when they rolled it into his net. In Russian, that of Ivan, who finds the all-important ring by the help of the perch—the herrings try to lift the perch to the surface, but fail, and so two dolphins came and put their shoulders to the wheel and the ring is regained.

Animals Warned by Instinct.

An animal will often manifest the wildest alarm at the sight of a snake or on hearing one hiss, although it has never before come in contact with one of these reptiles. This power of transmitting experiences is a wonderful provision of nature, for if every living creature had to learn entirely by its personal experience to avoid its enemies and ascertain what kinds of food were wholesome or the reverse a great number of species would rapidly become extinct.

Life Not Merely Lapse of Years.

The mere lapse of years is not life. To eat and drink and sleep; to be exposed to the darkness and the light; to pass round in the mill of habit; and turn the wheel of wealth; to make room for our bookkeeper and turn thought into an incubator of trade—this is not life. In all this, but a poor fraction of the consciousness of humanity is awakened; and the soulless life of the machine is a most worn white to the face of a lifetime.

Bludgeons for Blockheads.
A word to the wise—a club to the otherwise.—Boston Transcript.

How's This?

We offer \$100.00 for any case of catarrh that cannot be cured by HALL'S CATHARTIC MEDICINE. It is taken internally and acts through the blood on the mucous surfaces of the system. Sold by druggists for over forty years. Price 25c. Testimonials free. F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio.



WOOD CREATED BIG IMPRESSION HERE

(Continued from page one)

against perhaps \$80 before the war. The Government cannot possibly sell for what they cost. They were built under conditions which greatly increased the cost. This is a matter of the past. The money is spent and we have the ships. The vitally important thing now is to place them under the American flag, and lay the foundation for a Merchant Marine which will soon place a large proportion of the world's carrying trade in our hands. This can be accomplished either through the Government selling the ships to commercial firms on terms which will make it possible for them to buy them; or by leasing the ships on terms which will be an inducement to our shipping firms to lease them. The maintenance of ships which are suitable for the Naval Reserve can be aided by the payment to their crews of a small monthly stipend, an arrangement under which the ships and crews would become available for the Navy in case of need.

"As soon as the war is over, it is probable that there will be a flood of immigration coming into this country. Our labor has a right to protection against the hordes which may come here with an idea that liberty means license and who do not bring past traditions of their own which are desirable. We must see to it that only the right kind comes. In other words, we must look into the quality of our immigration as we never have before. The flood of immigration will come largely from the war-swept areas of southeastern Europe. It may be composed largely of people who have never lived under representative government, who have been a part of the great forces of disorganization and destruction which have swept over Europe—people who have no sympathy with our institutions or ideals.

"We do not want and we must not permit this class of people to come to us. We have put about all the sand in our cement that it will stand. We need a certain amount of immigration for development of our agriculture, our business and our industries, and we welcome the man or woman who comes here for the purpose of adopting our ideals supporting our institutions, living up to our standards. But we must turn our faces like flint against those who came here declaredly opposed to our form of government and imbued with ideas and theories of government, or lack of government, which are deadly.

"Then again, we have our schools. I said to you a moment ago that I thought the women were going to take more interest in our schools. We have all got to take more interest in them. Our teachers in colleges and schools are underpaid from one end of the country to the other. This teaching force in our universities and schools is doing a work second to none that is being done in this country. Our country rests largely upon its public school system. We want to keep it up to the highest possible level of efficiency. These men and women who today are teaching the youth of this country, the children of our land, are forming the characters of the men and women of tomorrow. As they are taught today so will they be thinking and acting tomorrow. It is a most dangerous situation to fail to give proper attention to the school system. Our teaching force is fighting that silent battle against ignorance and prejudice upon the outcome of which depends in no small measure the stability of this republic. They know they are underpaid, and we know it. They are unhappy and discontented, and a great many of best men and women in the teaching force are leaving. They are going into other lines of endeavor. They feel they have a right to make the best use of their talents and to find a position where they can earn a reasonable return for their labor, where they can afford to have a little bit of pleasure, to marry, to raise a family and to give their children a reasonable opportunity."

Following the address at the Wood Luncheon, the party, which included Captain Roosevelt left for Muskegon, where Major-General Wood gave an address Saturday.

Oh! Girls—have you seen our new Paul Jones Middies

We have just opened our new Spring Shipment. We have them in a wide range of styles and colors; some with emblems and some plainer styles. Of course these PAUL JONES MIDDIES are fast colors.

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